

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A high-capacity electronic switching system includes two or more first stage switch modules to each of which one or more subscriber terminals (telephone sets, fax machines, personal computers, etc.) are connected and each of which executes signal switching for signals from/to the subscriber terminals, and a second stage switch module for switching signals between the first stage switch modules. In the high-capacity electronic switching system, each of the first stage switch modules is connected to another one of the first stage switch modules via a special-purpose link for setting a communication link between the first stage switch modules when necessary. For example, the setting of the communication link via the special-purpose link is executed when an abnormal condition of the second stage switch module occurred and normal communication link setting between two first stage switch modules via the second stage switch module is impossible. By this, even when failure occurred to the second stage switch module and communication between two first stage switch modules is impossible, a communication link can be set between the first stage switch modules via the special-purpose link, and thereby communication between the first stage switch modules is realized.